

APPROVED 02/26/2009

At 6:05 pm the Board's meeting was called to order in the basement meeting room at the Fremont Town Hall by Gene Cordes. Present were Selectmen Gene Cordes, Donald W. Gates, Jr and Brett Hunter; and Selectmen's Clerk Jeanne Nygren.

There were no Department Heads present tonight.

OLD BUSINESS

1. A motion to approve the minutes of 05 February 2009 was made by Gates and seconded by Hunter. The vote was unanimously approved 3-0.
2. A motion to approve the minutes of 12 February 2009 was made by Hunter and seconded by Gates. The vote was unanimously approved 3-0.
3. Cordes handed out several copies of the Cable Contract renewal paperwork for the Selectmen to sign. There was discussion about the first nine quarters of the contract being set with a 5% franchise fee to cover the infrastructure and equipment upgrades. Following that time period, the contract states the franchise fee will be lowered to 2.5% for the remainder of the contract. There was discussion about whether this could be changed to another figure after the infrastructure improvements have been funded. The requirement is for a public hearing to change the fee, and it could be changed to something different if all parties agreed.

At this time, Attorney Epstein felt it was prudent to set a number here, so that it was clear what the intention is. If the Town finds that the cable access management committee can run the station with less funding, it would make sense to reduce the franchise fee to less than 2.5%.

The Board of Selectmen would need to notify Comcast if any other than 2.5% would be used, and further vote to amend the change and this page of the document has to be inserted into the contract. The Selectmen went through the email correspondence this week from Somers and Epstein.

A motion to approve the renewal franchise Cable Contract agreement with Comcast NH Inc. was made by Hunter and seconded by Gates. The vote was unanimously approved 3-0. Selectmen proceeded to sign all five copies of the cable renewal contract, which include two for Comcast; two for the Town; and one for Peter Epstein's files.

Guest Greta St. Germain came into the meeting at 6:12 pm.

A motion to go into non-public session at 6:15 to discuss a personnel matter pursuant to NH RSA 91-A:3 II (c) was made by Gates, seconded by Hunter and voted unanimously in favor 3-0.

A motion was made at 6:20 pm to return to Public Session by Gates and seconded by Hunter. The vote was unanimously approved 3-0.

The Board discussed holding a meeting with the Fire Chief when he returns from vacation, perhaps the week of March 5th.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Selectmen reviewed the accounts payable manifest. After review, a motion to amend the accounts payable manifest to \$ 15,137.60 for the current week of February 20, 2009, by holding out check numbers 34177 and 34163, reducing the manifest approval by \$150.00 was made by Gates and seconded by Hunter. The vote was unanimously approved 3-0.

2. A motion to approve the payroll manifest for \$19,876.18 for February 20, 2009 was made by Gates, seconded by Hunter. The vote was unanimously approved 3-0.

3. All of the Selectmen began reviewing the March 2009 Newsletter. There was a typo corrected. There was also review of an "article" submitted by Patti Gentile. It was a couple of sentences announcing a web forum for "Exeter River and other issues" that Carlson had in question as to whether it met the Newsletter Submission Guidelines. Ms Gentile indicated in an email that she had reviewed the guidelines and felt it did meet them. Board members reviewed the guidelines and were also unsure if it met the guideline of a town group. Cordes didn't like the statement "as well as other issues" that was included in the article. Gates didn't like the issue regarding the bulletin board.

Selectmen said to put a hold on this and to get more information regarding the submission as written, questioning if it sounds as though the Town is sanctioning this article from a private citizen. Hunter and Gates recommended holding this submission and having Patti Gentile come in to discuss this with the Selectmen and maybe this should be dovetailed with ERLAC.

There was a discussion on the possibility of changing the guidelines and allowing advertising which might pay for the cost of the newsletter as something to look at in the future. No decisions were made.

At 6:45 pm a motion to go into non-public session per NH RSA 91-A:3 II (c) was made by Gates and seconded by Cordes. The vote was unanimously approved 3-0.

At 6:55 pm a motion to come out of non-public session was made by Gates and seconded by Cordes. The vote was unanimously approved 3-0.

Cordes then stated he wanted to have an appointment set up to have Fire Chief Richard Butler and Thomas Roy to come in to talk to the Selectmen regarding the issue of emergency calls during the day. This meeting could be set possibly the week of March 5th. This appointment will be arranged by Town Administrator Heidi Carlson if the parties are available on that date.

4. The Selectmen then went through the mail folder and pending information. Cordes reviewed a request submitted by Heidi Carlson to take off February 20, 2009. A motion to approve this swap for her working on January 31, 2009 was made by Gates and seconded by Hunter. The vote was unanimously approved 3-0.

5. Cordes spoke about the Planning Board meeting last night and that David West meet outstanding grants funding for the Town and at the next meeting, next week they would bring in a list and the sequence that needs to occur for the funding to still be in place. They had \$3,000.00 available to do work on Land Use but we didn't have any qualifying projects.

The Conservation Commission came back with some recommendations on Wetland buffers and what should be in them and the specification of the type of work, so West will apply for the grant and if they get the CTAP money they can use it for that purpose. Gates asked if anyone has shown interest the Planning Board staffing. Cordes said he thought there was someone who had expressed interest.

With no further business to come before the Board, a motion to adjourn at 7:15 pm was made by Hunter and seconded by Gates. The vote was unanimously approved 3-0.

The next regular Board meeting will be held on Thursday February 26, 2009 at 6:00 pm.

Submitted by,

Jeanne Nygren
Selectmen's Clerk